IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of glycating a protein comprising the following steps:

combining a quantity of one of a reducing sugar and a reducing polysaccharide with the protein in a solution;

lyophilizing the solution to produce a lyophilized sample;

placing said lyophilized sample under vacuum; and

heating said lyophilized sample under vacuum.

- 2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of reducing the glycated protein with one of an agent selected from the group consisting of sodium borohydride, and cyanoborohydride and alkyl amino borane.
- 3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the sample is heated at a temperature in the range of about 40°C to about 150°C.
- 4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the reducing sugar is heated from 1 to 48 hours.
- 5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the reducing sugar is selected from the group consisting of 1 to 50 sugar units.
- 6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the protein is lyophilized from a solution in the range of pH 2 to pH 12.